

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM**

NR Eligible: yes \_\_\_\_\_  
no \_\_\_\_\_

Property Name: Bowie Fire House Inventory Number: PG: 71B-2-30  
Address: 13006 9th Street City: Bowie Zip Code: 20720  
County: Prince George's USGS Topographic Map: Laurel  
Owner: James M. and Loretta Carrier Is the property being evaluated a district? yes  
Tax Parcel Number: Lots 60-63 Tax Map Number: 29 Tax Account ID Number: 1586312  
Project: Baltimore-Washington Maglev Amtrak Agency: MTA  
Site visit by MHT staff: X no yes Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Is the property is located within a historic district? yes X no

If the property is within a district District Inventory Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
NR-listed district yes Eligible district yes Name of District: \_\_\_\_\_  
Preparer's Recommendation: Contributing resource yes no Non-contributing but eligible in another context yes

If the property is not within a district (or the property is a district) Preparer's Recommendation: Eligible yes X no

Criteria: A B C D Considerations: A B C D E F G None

Documentation on the property/district is presented in: MHT Form (PG: 71B-2-30); Historic Town of Bowie tour booklet

Description of Property and Eligibility Determination: *(Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map and photo)*

The Bowie Fire House is a one-story, front gabled, two-bay Colonial Revival fire station with a one-story, one-bay, shed-roofed side addition with a plain front parapet wall. Both front sections are painted red. The main section of the building, built of plain concrete block with wood trim, has a pediment-style gable with full returns and an oculus attic window. Simple, wide pilasters flank the two door bays, which are topped by a plain entablature. Modern signage is hung over the doors and in the pediment. The concrete side addition appears to be somewhat newer and is constructed of concrete blocks finished with painted stucco. It has a single bay, which has been infilled with a slight recess and now shelters the office door and window of an auto service business. The side wall of this section has a scalloped-edge cornice band and three steel casement windows flanked by white louvered shutters. A two-story, hip-roofed brick hose-drying tower rises from the left rear corner of the building, and adjoins a two-story, side-gabled frame rear section that extends behind both front sections. The frame section has an external brick chimney and aluminum clapboard siding.

Despite two devastating fires in 1895 and 1900, Bowie did not organize a volunteer fire department until 1928. The first firehouse was a short distance east on 9th Street behind the Luers store. In 1933, the fire department incorporated and purchased three lots west of the Luers store. The main block of the Bowie Fire House was built in 1938-1939, funded in part by WPA monies. The east bay was added at a later date, and the building functioned as both firehouse and town hall for some years. The Bowie Fire House closed in 1974 when a new firehouse was constructed next door, and has housed various businesses since. It

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW**

Eligibility recommended X Eligibility not recommended \_\_\_\_\_  
Criteria: X A B X C D Considerations: A B C D E F G None

MHT Comments

CONTRIBUTES TO DISTRICT (PG: 71B-2)

Andrew Lewis ✓  
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

[Signature]  
Reviewer, NR Program

8/14/03  
Date  
8/15/03  
Date

## NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Bowie Fire House

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is currently the home of Al's Auto Service.

The Bowie Fire House played an important role in the safety of the town and the survival of its older buildings, many of which were replacements for those lost in earlier fires. However, it is a fairly common example of a 1930s Colonial Revival fire station, and its integrity has been diminished by a 1950s side addition and other modernization. It is recommended not eligible for the NRHP on an individual basis, but is a contributing resource to the recommended-eligible Bowie-Huntington Survey District.

It is recommended not eligible for the NRHP on an individual basis, but is a contributing element to the recommended-eligible Bowie-Huntington Survey District.

Prepared by: Kate Farnham, John Milner AssociatesDate Prepared: 10/16/2002

PG#71B-2-30

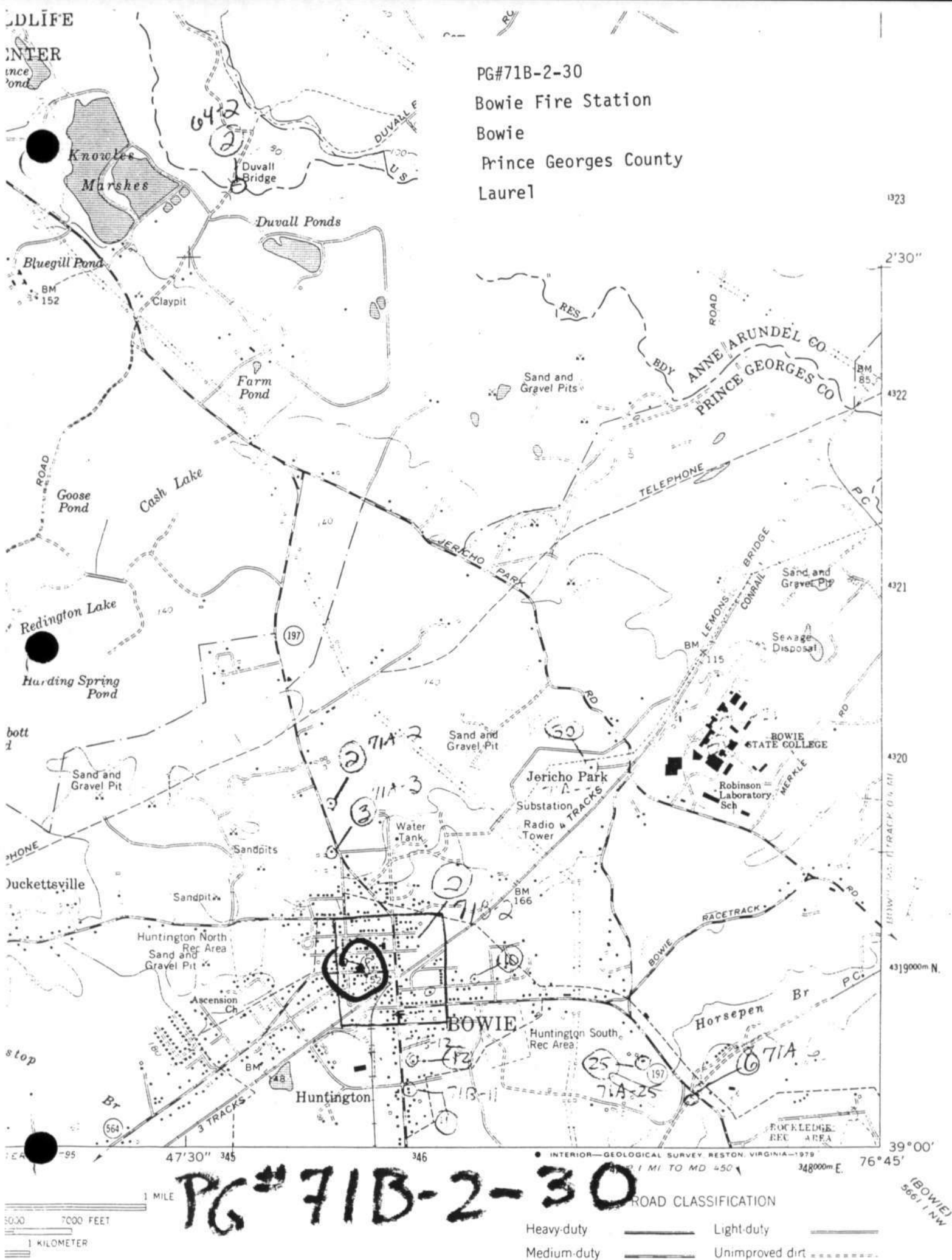
## Bowie Fire Station

Bowie

Prince Georges County

Laurel

1323





PG: 71B-2-30

Bowie Fire House, 13006 9th Street, Bowie

Prince George's County, Maryland

Kate Earnham

August 2002

MD SHPO

View to N from 9th Street

#1 of 2



PG: 71B-2-30

Bowie Fire House, 13006 9th Street, Bowie

Prince George's County, Maryland

Kate Farnham

August 2002

MD SHPO

View to NW from 9th Street

# 2 of 2

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY  
HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey: PG#71B-2-30 Building Date: 1939

Building Name: Bowie Fire House

Location: 13006 9th Street, Bowie, Maryland

Private/Antique Shop/Occupied/Good/Accessible

Description:

The Bowie Fire House is a front-gabled building, two bays by four, and one story in height. Two large white garage bay doors dominate the south gable front, and above them the pediment is defined by wood molding painted white. Within the tympanum is a round window, its glazing divided into nine geometric sections. The building is constructed of brick painted bright red; all trim is white. The eaves of the gable roof are marked with a wide frieze board painted white. Near the front of the ridge is a wooden belfry (painted white) which gives the building its distinctive character. The bell is enclosed within arched openings surmounted by a steep pyramidal roof. A narrow flat-roof addition has been built onto the east side, adding two bays to the width of the original fire house and extending the full depth of the building. In the northwest corner of the original building, a tall square tower has been added, and a two-story frame wing has been constructed at right angles to the rear of the main block.

Significance:

The Bowie Fire House is a contributing element in the streetscape of the old town of Huntington/Bowie. The town of Huntington was established in 1870 at the junction of the Baltimore and Potomac Railroad and the branch line south into Washington. The town was devastated by fire in 1895 and again in 1910, but, until the 1920s, had no organized fire-fighting system. In 1928 the Bowie Volunteer Fire Department was organized; the first firehouse was a small frame building constructed in 1928 on land provided by merchant George Luers behind his general store. Luers allowed the Fire Department free use of the land for as long as they used the building. In 1933, the Bowie Volunteer Fire Department was incorporated and purchased three lots immediately west of the Luers store; in 1939 the main block of the subject Fire House was built. Financed partially by Works Progress Administration funds, it served both as Fire Department building and Town Hall. It closed in 1974 when a modern Fire Station was constructed adjacent to it. The old Fire House currently operates as the "Olde Friends" antique shop. Its picturesque belfry and bright red color make it a noticeable landmark in this railroad junction town.

Acreage: 2400 square feet



Bowie Fire House

PG#71B-2-30

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Western Shore

Chronological/Development Periods:

Modern Period - 1930 to present

Historic Period Themes:

Architecture, Community Planning

Social/Cultural

Government

Resource Type:

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Suburban

Historic Functions and Uses: Fire House, Antique shop

Design Source: unknown

**Maryland Historical Trust**  
**State Historic Sites Inventory Form**

**MARYLAND INVENTORY OF**  
**HISTORIC PROPERTIES**

Survey No. PG#71B-2-30

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

**1. Name** (indicate preferred name)

historic Bowie Fire House

and/or common

**2. Location**

street & number 13006 9th Street ☐ not for publication

city, town Bowie ☐ vicinity of congressional district 5

state Maryland county Prince George's County

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property** (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name James M. Carrier

street & number 13215 Ovalstone Lane telephone no.:

city, town Bowie state and zip code MD 20715

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Court House liber 4923

street & number 14735 Main Street folio 693

city, town Upper Marlboro state MD 20772

**6. Representation in Existing** Historical Surveys

title None

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

## 7. Description

Survey No. PG#71B-2-30

### Condition

☐ excellent  
☒ good  
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated  
☐ ruins  
☐ unexposed

### Check one

☐ unaltered  
☒ altered

### Check one

☒ original site  
☐ moved      date of move \_\_\_\_\_

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Bowie Fire House is a front-gabled brick garage building with several rear additions as well as a small addition to the east side. The building is distinguished by its small belfry and its bright red color.

The original building is front gabled, two bays by four, and one story in height. Two large white garage bay doors dominate the south gable front, and above them the pediment is defined by wood molding painted white. Within the tympanum is a round window, its glazing divided into nine geometric sections. Windows in the long side walls were long 6/6 double hung sash with broad white lintels. There is a door in the fourth (southernmost) bay of the west side elevation.

The building is constructed of brick which is painted bright red; all trim is white. The gable roof is covered with black asbestos shingle, and the eaves are marked with a wide frieze board painted white. Near the front of the ridge is a wooden belfry (painted white) which gives the building its distinctive character. The belfry rests on a square wood base, and the bell is enclosed within arched openings surmounted by a steep pyramidal roof.

A narrow flat-roof addition has been built onto the east side, adding two bays to the width of the original fire house and extending the full depth of the building. Entrance to the building is now through the south front of this easterly addition through a modern door. The east side of the addition is lighted by three eight-pane casement windows, with white panelled shutters.

The northwest (rear) corner of the original building, a tall square tower has been added, and a two-story frame rear wing has been constructed at right angles to the main block. This multi-part building has been adapted to serve as an antique shop. A modern fire station now stands on the adjoining lot to the east.

## 8. Significance

Survey No. PG#71B-2-30

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1939

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☒ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D

and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Bowie Fire House is a contributing element in the streetscape of the old town of Huntington/Bowie. It represents an organization which was important in the history of this community, and its picturesque belfry and bright red color make it a noticeable landmark in this railroad junction town.

The town of Huntington (Bowie) grew up around the junction of the Baltimore and Potomac Railroad and the branch line south into Washington. Construction of the line began in 1868, and in the following year Ben H. Plumb, a land speculator and developer, purchased 250 acres of farmland through which the railroad was being constructed. At the point where a spur line to Washington, D.C., joined with the B & PRR, Plumb surveyed and platted a town of approximately one square mile, with numbered streets running east and west, and tree-named avenues running north and south, forming a grid over the diagonal railroad line.<sup>1</sup> In 1870, he published a Prospectus of Huntington, which described the new town, and offered for sale building lots, each of 2,500 square feet. Two carpenters, brought for the purpose, began building dwellings on lots already purchased. Several stores were constructed, lots were reserved for school and churches, two parks were laid out, and the railroad company began construction of depot, round house and machine shops.<sup>2</sup> The Depot itself was from the beginning known as Bowie Station, after members of the family who had backed the construction of the railroad line; the town, originally named Huntington, soon came to be known as Bowie as well.

<sup>1</sup> Plat of Huntington City, J.C. Lang, 1870, Library of Congress.

<sup>2</sup> Prospectus of Huntington, 1870, Library of Congress.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. PG#71B-2-30

See Notes, Item 8

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 2400 sq ftQuadrangle name LaurelQuadrangle scale 1:24000UTM References do NOT complete UTM referencesA 

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Zone Easting NorthingB 

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Zone Easting NorthingC 

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D 

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E 

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H 

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Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state code county code

state code county code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Susan G. Pearl, Research/Architectural Historianorganization Prince George's County

Historic Preservation Commission

date March 1993street & number 14741 Gov. Oden Bowie Drivetelephone 301-952-3521city or town Upper Marlborostate MD

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
Shaw House  
21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
DHCP/DHCD  
100 COMMUNITY PLACE  
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023  
514-7600

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM  
Statement of Significance (continued)

Survey No. PG#71B-2-30

Section 8 Page 2

As might be expected, the railroad was the biggest employer in the new community. By 1880, the population included conductors, engineers, baggage master and brakeman, as well as all the other professionals essential to a small town: postmaster, merchants, carpenters, school teacher, telegraph operator, hotel keeper, shoemakers, butcher, hostler and barber.<sup>3</sup>

The town of Bowie was devastated by fire in 1895 and again in 1910, but, until the 1920s, had no organized fire-fighting system. In 1928 the Bowie Volunteer Fire Department was organized, funded by voluntary contributions and fund-raising events. The first firehouse was a small frame building constructed in 1928 on land (on Chapel Avenue) provided by merchant George Luers behind his grocery and general store. Luers allowed the Fire Department free use of the land for as long as they used the building.<sup>4</sup>

As early as 1933, the Bowie Volunteer Fire Department had incorporated and purchased three lots immediately west of the Luers store,<sup>5</sup> and in 1939 the main block of the subject Fire House was built. It was financed partially by Works Progress Administration funds, and partially by funds raised by Bowie residents for the purpose of constructing a town hall. For several years the building was used as and known as the "Town Hall and Fire Department Building".<sup>6</sup>

The subject building closed as a firehouse in 1974 when a modern Fire Station was constructed immediately adjacent to it on the east. The old Fire House has been adapted for commercial use, and is currently open as the "Olde Friends" antique shop.

<sup>3</sup> Federal Census for Prince George's County, 14th Enumeration District, 1880.

<sup>4</sup> Town of Bowie Maryland, 1870-1960, Huntington Heritage Society, Inc., 1992; Prince George's Enquirer, 19 April 1895, 14 October 1910.

<sup>5</sup> Prince George's county Deed #384:165.

<sup>6</sup> Prince George's County Deeds #498:301, #656:230.









PG # 71B-2-30

Boore's Tire House  
Prince Georges Co. MD  
Susan H. Pearl  
December 1992  
MD SHPO  
Arch facade from SE

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